

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 18 as indicated in the listing of claims.

Please add claims 25-32.

Please cancel claims 13-16.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated marine actinomycete having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the marine actinomycete is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising ~~the following 16S rRNAs SEQ ID NO:3, 4 or 5 signature nucleotides as numbered by using the Ribosomal Database Project alignment with a sequence of E. coli 16S rRNA nucleotides 27-1492: adenosine at position 207 of a 16S rRNA, cytidine at position 366 of the 16S rRNA, uridine at position 467 of the 16S rRNA, and uridine at position 468 of the 16S rRNA.~~

2-12. (Canceled)

13-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, wherein the marine actinomycete is obtained from sediment.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a biomolecule, comprising culturing a marine actinomycete of claim 1 in a sodium containing growth media, wherein the biomolecule is produced by the marine actinomycete;

collecting the marine actinomycete or the sodium containing growth media containing the biomolecule; and extracting the biomolecule from the marine actinomycete or the sodium containing growth media, thereby producing the biomolecule.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

21-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, wherein SEQ ID NOs: 3, 4 or 5 have signature nucleotides not found in other *Micromonosporaceae* 16S rRNAs.

26. (New) An isolated marine actinomycete of claim 25, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

27. (New) An isolated marine actinomycete having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the marine actinomycete is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising 16S rRNAs SEQ ID NO:3, 4 or 5 and signature nucleotides therein, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

28. (New) An isolated marine actinomycete having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the marine actinomycete is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising a 16S rRNA and signature nucleotides therein, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

29. (New) The isolated marine actinomycete of claims 26-28, wherein the marine actinomycete is obtained from sediment.

30. (New) The method of claims 26-28, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

31. (New) A method for producing a biomolecule, comprising culturing a marine actinomycete of claim 1 in a sodium containing growth media, wherein the biomolecule is produced by the marine actinomycete;

collecting the marine actinomycete or the sodium containing growth media containing the biomolecule; and extracting the biomolecule from the marine actinomycete or the sodium containing growth media, thereby producing the biomolecule.

32. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.